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**ABSTRACT**

A negative pressure air bearing slider includes a slider body for flying above a surface of a recording disc during relative rotation of the recording disc. First and second projections extend from a lead portion of a principal surface of the slider body to define first and second air bearing surfaces, respectively, the first and second air bearing surfaces being spaced apart from each other in the lateral direction of said slider body. A third U-shaped projection extends from the principal surface and includes a curved front wall portion at least partially located between the first and second projections and first and second side wall portions extending from opposite ends of the curved front wall portion to a rear portion of the principal surface so as to define a rounded negative pressure cavity therein. A fourth projection extends from the rear portion of the principal surface of the slider body at a position centrally located in the lateral direction of the slider body, and a transducer is mounted on a rear edge of the third projection so as to establish pseudo contact with the disc surface while the slider body is flying above the disc surface.

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